with the sponsorships issued by the respective sponsoring authorities. Supplies to power and Cement Units are made based on short-term linkages established by the Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) for these sectors. The details regarding supply of coal of Madhya Pradesh in the current year are not readily available. However, coal supplies to consumers in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years were as below :—

(In '000 tonnes)
(Data provisiona

1992-93	33,895
1993-94	37,301

(c) and (d) Any request for additional allocation of coal/coke are considered/ examined in each case on merits. Coal India Limited (CIL) is presently in a position to meet almost the entire non-coking coal demand in Madhya Pradesh except for soft coke/hard coke. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS) under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirements of linkage/sponsorship. Under this scheme coal is also being supplies to Whole Sale Traders and Mini Traders who. in turn meet the demands of small and medium consumers.

Objectives of the Eighth Five Year Plan for Coal Mining

1739. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the objectives of the Eighth Five Year Plan for coal mining in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that mining of low ash content quality coal from underground mines is not one of the stated objectives of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the objective of improvement of quality of coking coal through beneficiation for the steel industry and non-coking coal for the power sector through washing being fulfilled satisfactorily ;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the year-wise levels of ash content achieved through beneficiation/washing vis-a-vis the required levels for the steel and the power sectors; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and action taken or contemplated to meet the quality requirements of coking coal for the steel industry and non-coking coal for the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The objectives of Eighth Five Year Plan for coal mining are inter-alia as follows :—

(i) To ensure that the supply and movement of coal are managed in a well balanced manner so that the pit-head stocks are reduced to a reasonable level and the requirements of the consumers are met to the maximum extent.

(ii) To take up specific measures for maximising the use of indigenous coking coal in steel production through quality improvement schemes including betterment of the existing washery plants.

(iii) To minimise time and cost overruns in the implementation of coal projects.

(iv) To take such measures that would minimise delays in the implementation of projects on account of delays in land acquisition and rehabilitation of displaced families and delays in the clearance of projects from the forest and environment angle.

(v) To prepare an effective environmental management plan including a comprehensive rehabilitation policy and to monitor and implement the same.

(vi) To arrest low production and productivity in underground mines and improve overall productivity of machinery and manpower.

(b) and (c) One of the priority area identified in the Eighth Plan in respect of underground mining is to arrest low production and productivity in underground mines. The Eighth Plan also emphasises on improving the performance of underground projects adoption of appropriate technologies and taking up development of new underground mines wherever possible. Increase in production for underground mines will include production of superior grades (low ash) coal.

(d) to (f) Steel plants in India are designed to use coking coal with 17+/— 0.5% ash for producing metallurgical coke. Average ash content in the washed coking coal in some of the washeries is higher than the required figure. The average weighted ash percentage in the washed coal for last 2 years washerywise is given below :—

(percentage)

Washery	1992-93	1993-94
Dugda	23.2	20.50
Bhojudih	20.6	19.00
Patherdih	22.7	21.50
Sudamih	20.1	19.00
Moonidih	19.0	18.00
Lodna	22.8	21.50
Barora	20.4	19.00
Mohuda	18.2	17.50
Kargali	20.7	18.25
Kathara	19.4	18.25
Swang	19.5	18.25
Gidi	20.2	18.25
Rajrappa	20.3	17.75
Nandan	19.2	17.50
Average for the year	20.87	18.78

Modernisation of some of the old existing washeries is in progress to ensure supply of washed coking coal of stipulated quality to steel plants. Moreover, setting up of washing capacity of Low Volatile Medium Coking Coal and increasing the Coking Coal availability are also under implementation by CIL. Besides all new coking coal washeries under construction and that those planned are designed to meet the qualitative requirement of the steel plants.

Non-coking coals with high ash content are used in India for generation of power. The modern coal combustion equipment can effectively and efficiently utilise these coals. However, use of beneficiated non-coking coal in distant power stations has been accepted.

For beneficiation of non-coking coal, construction of two washeries with a total capacity of 11 m.t. is in progress. Action has also been initiated to set up more such plants in private sector under 'Build-Own-Operate' scheme.

Fire Zone in Jharia

1740. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the mine fire incidents in the Jharia Coalfields, the exclusive producers of high coking coal, any study has been made to identify the "fire zone";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what strategy has been formulated by Government to monitor fire movements in the areas/region affected by mine fires for the purpose of planning timely fire fighting operations to minimise fire impact ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Since the first recorded occurrence of fire in Jharia Coalfield of Bihar in 1916, existence of 70 fires covering an area of 17.32 sq. kms. has been reported.

As a result of concerted efforts made by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), five fires have been extinguished and further spread of six fires has been controlled.

A study by the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, has been undertaken for development of a methodology for thermal mapping on mine fires areas in Jharia Coalfield using remote sensing technology.

With the objective of finding a long term solution to the problem of Jharia Coalfield fires, a detailed diagnostic study has been undertaken under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project for which World Bank assistance of US $ 12.00 million has been approved. Work on the study is in progress.

Ownership of land belonging to B.C.C.L.

1741. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Plot No. 177 of Lodna Mouza belonged to Shalimar Tar Products and not to Lodna Coal Company and thus denying the ownership of the factory for Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (B.C.C.L.), and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that now it has been found that the said land belongs to Lodna Coal Company and thus got vested in B.C.C.L., and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per the nationalisation article, any structure, office buildings situated on the land of BCCL got vested with the company becoming a part of the national property and if so, steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) According to information available now, M/s. Lodna Colliery Co. Ltd. and M/s. Shalimar Tar Products Ltd. were two separate companies under the same managing agent, M/s. Turner Morrison & Co. Ltd. However, Plot No. 177 in Mouza Lodna on which the plant of M/s. Shalimar Tar Products Ltd. was located is recorded in the name of Lodna Colliery Co. Ltd.

(c) According to Section 3 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, on the appointed day, the right, title and interest of the owners in relation to the coal mines specified in the schedule stood transferred